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SUBJECT: Spike of H1N1 Cases - 53,957 Total; 5 New Deaths

REF: Berlin 1418 and previous

11. (U) SUMMARY: From November 2-8, the number of confirmed H1N1 infections in Germany rose by 14,890 cases to a total of 53,957 cases. Five more H1N1 related deaths were reported in Germany, increasing the total number of deaths to sixteen. Germany plans to order 150,000 doses of a non-adjuvant vaccine for pregnant women. END SUMMARY

12. (U) At its November 16 press briefing, the National Reference Center for Influenza at the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) confirmed a total of 14,890 new (laboratory and non-laboratory) H1N1 cases in Germany from November 2 to November 8, increasing the total number of H1N1 cases to 53,957. Bavaria remains the German state with the highest number of confirmed virus cases, with a total of 19,674, followed by Nord Rhine-Westphalia (9,747) and Baden-Wuerttemberg (6,753).

Five more German H1N1 Deaths

13. (U) RKI has confirmed the deaths of five additional patients due to H1N1. Three people from Bavaria aged 33, 52 and 63, and two from Nordrhein-Westphalia, aged 32 and 25, died in Germany due to the new virus. In all cases, the individuals were considered to be "risk patients" and had underlying health conditions. This increases the number of H1N1 deaths in Germany to sixteen.

14. (U) Media reports indicate that a 55-year old man from Thuringia died on November 12, shortly after receiving the H1N1 vaccination. It is unclear at this point if he died due to an adverse reaction to the vaccine or to a pre-existing medical condition. RKI has not yet confirmed that his death was caused by H1N1.

Germany to order non-adjuvant vaccine for pregnant women

15. (U) At a meeting with the state health ministers on November 11, Federal Health Minister Philipp Rösler called on the German population to allow medical personnel and sick people to be vaccinated first. A mass vaccination will not be possible before December, due to supply shortages. At the conference, pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) confirmed plans to increase the production of H1N1 vaccine in the coming weeks; however, the amount it will be able to deliver will still fall short of what the German states are

expecting. GSK plans to deliver 20 million doses of the 50 million doses ordered by the end of the year. The remaining 30 million doses will be delivered in the first quarter of 2010.

16. (U) At the conference, the minister and the federal states agreed to order 150,000 doses of a non-adjuvant vaccine for pregnant woman produced by Australian pharmaceutical company CSL. The vaccine is expected as early as the end of November.

MURPHY